

25 FEB

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>Dear Millburn BOE,

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>For the past two school years I have had the distinct privilege of  
>wearing the uniform of a naval officer in the reserve component of our  
>armed forces. It is a solemn obligation that requires commitment and  
>sacrifice on a number of levels notwithstanding a disruption to my family  
>and to my civilian profession as an educator.

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>As my oath to service directly impacts the delicate balance between  
>family, teaching, and military service, I would like to briefly recount  
>my time away from teaching.

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>The first year away from the classroom 08-09, involved reporting for  
>active duty in Operation Enduring Freedom, which took me from Norfolk,  
>VA, Ft. Riley, KS, Ft. Huachuca, AZ and finally to Kabul, Afghanistan to  
>serve as an Intel analyst.

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>Though, to my disappointment, my mobilization was cut short due to  
>medical issues, I honorably served my deployment, receiving a Reserve  
>Mobilization medal as an individual augmentee (IA). This experience will  
>always be a part of me as I continue to move forward and will no doubt  
>help prepare me and my family for future deployments if/when they  
appear  
>on the horizon.

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>My second year away from the classroom was taken as an official leave  
of  
>absence. Though no longer on active duty orders, I continue with my  
>training, monthly drills, and serve as Officer in Charge (OIC) of  
>Military Funerals throughout Lake County and the Chicago land area. The  
>funerals are primarily held for diseased WWII Vets. As a result of my  
>service, my Unit, European Command, recently awarded me with a Navy  
>Achievement Medal (NAM).

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>Of course, it goes without saying that my family has received a great  
>deal of my time and energy throughout my leave as well.

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>With that said, I am now able to refocus on my profession at hand as a

>social studies teacher. Therefore, it is my intention to reinstate my  
>name to Millburn BOE for the 7th grade social studies position at  
>Millburn Central School.

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>In closing, I would be amiss, if I did not express my gratitude for the  
>support of the BOE and administration for my past, present, and future  
>service in the U.S. Armed Forces. With your continued support and  
>understanding, I look forward in keeping the spirit of service,  
>dedication, and professionalism in both of these very worthwhile  
>endeavors.

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>Thank you for your time and consideration of my petition.

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>Very Respectfully,

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>J. David Schroeder

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